

REMARKS

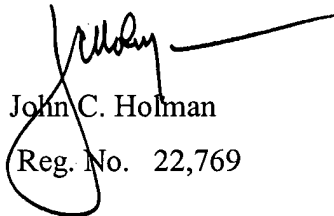
The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “ **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**”

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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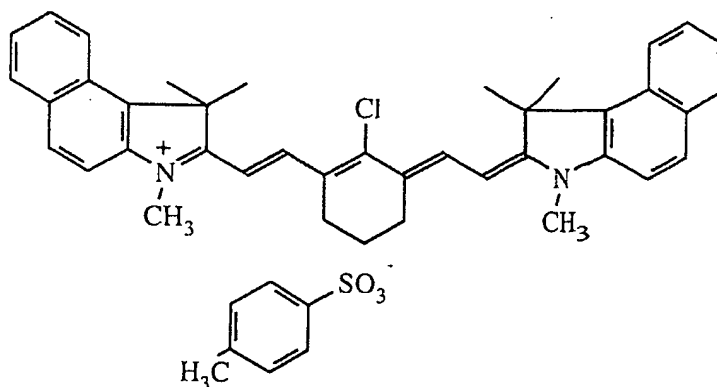
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

7. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 6], characterised in that the IR absorber is a cyanine dye.

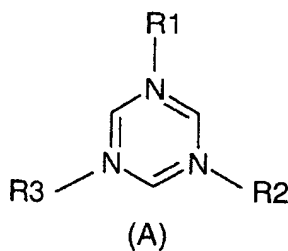
8. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 7], characterised in that the IR absorber has the following formula



9. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 8], characterised in that the quantity of the said IR absorber is from 1% to 12% by weight.

10. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 8], characterised in that the quantity of the said IR absorber is from 5% to 10% by weight.

11. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 10], characterised in that the triazine compound has the structural formula:



where at least one of the substituents R1, R2 and R3 is NR'R'' and the others are H or NR'R'' and at least one of the substituents R' and R'' is -CH₂-O-Alk₁₋₄C and the others R' and R'', which are the same or different from each other, are H or -CH₂-O-Alk₁₋₄C.

18. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 17], characterised in that the quantity of the said triazine compound is from 10 to 30% by weight.

19. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 17], characterised in that the quantity of the said triazine compound is from 15 to 25% by weight.

20. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 19], characterised in that the said novolak resin has a weight average molecular weight of between 2,000 and 14,000.

21. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 20], characterised in that the said composition comprises at least two novolak resins, a first having a weight average molecular weight of between 3,000 and 5,000 and a second having a weight average molecular weight of between 6,000 and 11,000.

22. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 21], characterised in that the total quantity of novolak resin is from 1 to 20% by weight.

23. (amended) Composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 21], characterised in that the total quantity of novolak resin is from 5 to 20% by weight.

24. (amended) Negative lithographic plate comprising a substrate coated with a composition according to claim 1 [any one of the foregoing claims from 1 to 23].

26. (amended) Method according to claim 25, characterised in that the said composition is a [composition according to] heat-sensitive composition which forms an image without the removal of material, which does not require any developing treatment after the stage of exposure to heat and comprises:
a) a switchable polymer, and b) an IR absorber, characterised in that it also comprises: c) a triazine compound, and d) a novolak resin [any one of the foregoing claims from 1 to 23].